

CA1  
EP 150  
-N 26

Government  
Publications

**CANADIAN ENVIRONMENTAL  
ASSESSMENT AGENCY**

**NEWS RELEASE**

3 1761 1155045 1







CAI  
EP150  
-N26

# News Release

## OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT ON DRAFT PROCEDURES FOR PANEL REVIEWS

**Ottawa, June 13, 1996** -- The Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency invites public comment on draft procedures for the panel review process under the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act*. Written comments will be accepted until August 16, 1996.

The proposed procedures were drafted to ensure a consistent, timely, predictable, efficient and effective process, conducted in a manner that is open and accessible to the public. The panel review process under the Act provides an opportunity for integrating public values with scientific and technical information about potential environmental effects of a project. This information permits the government to make informed project decisions.

The draft procedures were developed by a subgroup of the Regulatory Advisory Committee (RAC), a multi-stakeholder advisory group administered by the Agency. Representatives of the RAC include federal and provincial government officials, business and industry interests, Aboriginal associations and non-government groups.

-30-

**For a copy of the procedures, please contact**

Lucie Martin  
Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency  
Tel: (819) 997-2223 Fax: (819) 994-1469

**The procedures are also available on the Agency's Internet site at**  
**[http:// www.ceaa.gc.ca](http://www.ceaa.gc.ca)**

**Please direct written comments by August 16, 1996 to**

Jim Clarke  
Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency  
200 Sacré-Coeur Blvd., 14th Floor  
Hull, Quebec  
K1A 0H3

Fax: (819) 994-1469 E-Mail: [clarkej@fox.nstn.ca](mailto:clarkej@fox.nstn.ca)





# Communiqué

## OCCASION POUR LE PUBLIC DE PRÉSENTER SES OBSERVATIONS SUR LE PROJET DE PROCÉDURES D'EXAMEN PAR UNE COMMISSION

**Ottawa – le 13 juin 1996** -- L'Agence canadienne d'évaluation environnementale invite le public à présenter ses observations sur le projet de procédures d'examen par une commission en vertu de la *Loi canadienne sur l'évaluation environnementale*. Les observations écrites devront être envoyées avant le 16 août 1996.

Le projet de procédures assureront un processus cohérent, opportun, prévisible, efficient et efficace et effectué d'une manière qui est ouverte et accessible au public. Le processus d'examen par une commission en vertu de la Loi permettra d'intégrer les valeurs du public et les renseignements d'ordre scientifique et technique concernant les effets environnementaux probables d'un projet. Ces renseignements permettront au gouvernement de prendre des décisions éclairées.

Un sous-comité du Comité consultatif de la réglementation, à représentation multiple et administré par l'Agence, a élaboré le projet de procédures. Des représentants du Comité comprennent des membres du gouvernement fédéral et des gouvernements provinciaux, du milieu des affaires et de l'industrie, d'associations autochtones et de groupes non-gouvernementaux.

**Pour obtenir un exemplaire des procédures, veuillez communiquer avec**

Lucie Martin  
Agence canadienne d'évaluation environnementale  
Tél. : (819) 997-2223  
Télec. : (819) 994-1469

**Vous pouvez trouver également les procédures sur le site Internet de l'Agence à l'adresse suivante :**  
**[http : // www.acee.gc.ca](http://www.acee.gc.ca)**

**Veuillez envoyer les observations formulées par écrit avant le 16 août 1996 à**

Jim Clarke  
Agence canadienne d'évaluation environnementale  
14<sup>e</sup> étage, immeuble Fontaine  
200, boulevard Sacré-Coeur  
Hull (Québec)  
K1A 0H3

Télec. : (819) 994-1469

Courrier électronique: [clarkej@fox.nstn.ca](mailto:clarkej@fox.nstn.ca)





CAI  
EP150  
- N26

# News Release

## PARTICIPANT FUNDING FOR REVIEW OF ADDITIONAL TECHNICAL INFORMATION NUCLEAR FUEL WASTE MANAGEMENT AND DISPOSAL CONCEPT

**OTTAWA - August 5, 1996** - The federal government will provide up to \$150,000 in additional funding to groups participating in the environmental assessment review of the nuclear fuel waste concept. The purpose of the funding is to assist groups in conducting a technical review of the additional information received from Atomic Energy of Canada Limited, in particular how it may change the groups' previous assessments of the safety and scientific acceptability of the concept, and in taking part in the extended Phase II hearings to be held November 18-21, 1996 in Toronto. This stated purpose will serve as one of the application evaluation criteria.

A list of the documents being reviewed can be obtained at the address given below. Documents can be obtained by using an order coupon included with the list. **Funding applications must be received by the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency no later than Friday, September 6, 1996.**

A funding administration committee, independent from the environmental assessment Panel that has been established, will review applications and recommend the allocation of funds to eligible applicants in accordance with published criteria. Successful applicants will be required to sign an agreement with the Agency, under which expenditures may be subject to audit. The Participant Funding Program is administered by the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency.

- 30 -

**For funding application forms and eligibility criteria, and for additional information on the funding program, contact:**

Suzanne Latour, A/Manager, Participant Funding Program  
Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency  
200 Sacré-Coeur Blvd.  
Hull, Québec  
K1A 0H3

Tel: (819) 953-5537 Fax: (819) 994-1469

**(Aussi disponible en français)**



Gouvernement  
of Canada

Gouvernement  
du Canada

Canada



Digitized by the Internet Archive  
in 2022 with funding from  
University of Toronto

<https://archive.org/details/31761115550451>



CAI  
EP150  
-N26

# News Release

## NATION-WIDE PUBLIC CONSULTATION MEETINGS ON COST RECOVERY AND PROCESS EFFICIENCY IN ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

**Ottawa -- August 29, 1996** -- The Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency will conduct public consultation sessions across Canada (schedule attached) on two initiatives: recovering the cost of federal environmental assessments and improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the process. The Agency is targeting especially business interests, First Nations, environmental groups and other stakeholders.

Two papers released in June, *Discussion Paper on Cost Recovery* and *Position Paper on Process Efficiency*, launched the nation-wide consultation process. Written comments on the two initiatives can be forwarded to the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency by September 27, 1996. The results of the consultation will form the basis of recommendations to ministers later in the Fall.

Sessions will feature:

- a presentation by Agency president, Michel Dorais, on the cost recovery and process efficiency initiatives;
- an opportunity for questions and clarifications; and
- presentations from specific stakeholders.

Stakeholders wishing to make a presentation should contact project leader Sylvain Bertrand.

The papers can be consulted on the Agency's Internet site at: <http://www.ceaa.gc.ca>. Copies can be obtained by writing or calling the Agency:

Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency  
Cost Recovery and Process Efficiency Initiatives  
200 Sacré-Coeur Blvd.  
Hull, Quebec  
K1A 0H3

Tel: 819-997-1000  
Fax: 819-994-1469

A schedule of the upcoming consultations is attached.

-30-

For further information:

Sylvain Bertrand  
Project Leader  
819-997-1868



## Cost-Recovery and Process Efficiency Consultations Schedule

Dates	Location	Time
28 August	<b>Yellowknife, NWT</b> Explorer Hotel Melville A Room Contact: Paul Scott (604) 666-6989 FAX (604) 666-6990	8:30 - noon
30 August	<b>Whitehorse, Yukon</b> Yukon Inn Fireside Room Contact: Paul Scott (604) 666-6989 FAX (604) 666-6990	8:30 - noon
6 September	<b>Vancouver, BC</b> Simon Fraser University Harbour Centre Campus 515 West Hastings Street Room 1520 Contact: Paul Scott (604) 666-6989 FAX (604) 666-6989	8:30 - noon
9 September	<b>Calgary, Alberta</b> Delta Bow Valley 209 - 4 Avenue S.E. Olympic Room Contact: Ryerson M. Christie (403) 422-7704 FAX (403) 422-0055	8:30 - noon
10 September	<b>Halifax, NS</b> Westin Nova Scotia 1181 Hollis Street Harbour Suite A Contact: William Coulter (902) 426-0564 FAX: (902) 425-6530	8:30 - noon
13 September	<b>Ottawa-Hull</b> Holiday Inn Crowne Plaza 2 Montcalm Street Hull, Quebec Salon C Contact: Sylvain Bertrand (819) 997-1868 FAX (819) 994-1469	8:30 - noon
19 September	<b>Toronto, Ontario</b> Delta Chelsea Inn 33 Gerrard Street West Scott A & B Room, 3rd Floor Contact: Keith Grady (819) 953-2989 FAX (819) 994-1469	1:00pm-5:00pm
20 septembre	<b>Montréal, Quebec</b> Delta Montréal 475, avenue du Président Kennedy Salon Ravel Contact: Michel Bourgon (819) 997-2213 FAX (819) 994-1469	8:30 - noon



# News Release

CAI  
EPI50  
-N26

## CONSULTATION PERIOD EXTENDED ON COST RECOVERY AND PROCESS EFFICIENCY IN FEDERAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

**Ottawa -- September 25, 1996 --** The Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency has extended the deadline for receiving comments on two federal initiatives: recovering the cost from proponents of environmental assessments and improving the efficiency of the process. Interested persons now have until October 11, 1996 to submit written comments on the two initiatives. The results of this consultation will form the basis of recommendations to ministers later in the Fall.

The Agency is targeting especially business interests, First Nations, environmental groups and other stakeholders.

Two papers released in June, *Discussion Paper on Cost Recovery* and *Position Paper on Process Efficiency*, launched the nation-wide consultation process. The papers can be consulted on the Agency's Internet site at: <http://www.ceaa.gc.ca>. Copies can also be obtained by writing or calling the Agency:

Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency  
Cost Recovery and Process Efficiency Initiatives  
200 Sacré-Coeur Blvd.  
Hull, Quebec K1A 0H3  
Tel: 819-997-1000  
Fax: 819-994-1469

-30-

**For further information please call:**

Sylvain Bertrand  
Project Leader  
819-997-1868



Government  
of Canada

Gouvernement  
du Canada

Canada



# Communiqué

## PROLONGATION DE LA PÉRIODE DE CONSULTATIONS SUR LE RECOUVREMENT DES COÛTS ET L'EFFICACITÉ DU PROCESSUS FÉDÉRAL D'ÉVALUATION ENVIRONNEMENTALE

**Ottawa -- le 25 septembre 1996** -- L'Agence canadienne d'évaluation environnementale a prolongé l'échéance de sa période de consultations en vue d'obtenir des commentaires sur deux projets fédéraux : le recouvrement des coûts des évaluations environnementales à même les promoteurs et l'amélioration de l'efficacité du processus. Les personnes intéressées ont maintenant jusqu'au 11 octobre 1996 pour soumettre leurs commentaires par écrit. Le résultat de ces consultations servira de base aux recommandations formulées aux ministres à l'automne.

L'Agence vise particulièrement les entreprises, les Premières Nations, les groupes environnementaux et autres intervenants.

Le lancement du processus de consultation s'est effectué à l'échelle du pays par la publication de deux documents en juin : *Document de travail sur le recouvrement des coûts* et *Exposé de principes sur l'efficacité du processus*. On peut consulter les documents sur le site Internet de l'Agence :

<http://www.acee.gc.ca>. Toute personne intéressée à obtenir une copie des documents doit s'adresser à :

Agence canadienne d'évaluation environnementale  
Projets sur le recouvrement des coûts et l'efficacité du processus  
200, boulevard Sacré-Coeur  
Hull (Québec)  
K1A 0H3

Téléphone : (819) 997-1000  
Télécopieur : (819) 994-1469

- 30 -

Pour plus de renseignements, veuillez communiquer avec :

Sylvain Bertrand  
Chef de projet  
(819) 997-1868



Government  
of Canada

Gouvernement  
du Canada

Canada



CAI  
EP150  
-N26

# News Release

## FUNDING FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN THE REVIEW OF THE NUCLEAR FUEL WASTE DISPOSAL CONCEPT

**OTTAWA - October 8, 1996-** The federal government has awarded funds to help individuals and groups participating in the environmental assessment review of the Nuclear Fuel Waste Disposal Concept to review the supplemental technical information received from Atomic Energy Canada Limited (AECL).

Recipients include: Saskatchewan Environmental Society, Northwatch, Serpent River First Nation, Mr. Tom W. Lawson, Concerned Citizens of Manitoba, Nuclear Awareness Project, The Chemical Institute of Canada, Energy Probe, Canadian Nuclear Society, Canadian Coalition for Nuclear Responsibility, Inter-Church Uranium Committee, York Centre for Applied Sustainability, Voice of Women for Peace, Campaign for Nuclear Phaseout, Northumberland Environmental Protection, Science for Peace, Canadian Coalition for Ecology, Ethics, and Religion.

The assistance, totalling \$92,515, will be provided under the Participant Funding Program which is administered by the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency. The funding will help recipients prepare for and take part in hearings to be held in Toronto in November 1996 to review the supplementary technical information from AECL.

A funding administration committee, independent of the panel, was appointed to review participant funding proposals. Members of the committee were: Phil Byer, University of Toronto, René Parenteau, Université de Montréal and Mike Lascelles of the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency.

- 30 -

For information on the Participant Funding Program or for a list of successful applicants, the work for which they were funded and the amount of funding provided, please contact:

Suzanne Latour, A/Manager  
Participant Funding Program  
Canadian Environmental  
Assessment Agency  
200 Sacré-Coeur Blvd.  
Hull, Québec K1A 0H3

Tel: (819) 953-5537  
Fax: (819) 994-1469  
e-mail: [slatour@gsro.carleton.ca](mailto:slatour@gsro.carleton.ca)  
(Also available in French)





# Communiqué

## AIDE FINANCIÈRE ACCORDÉE AU PUBLIC POUR PARTICIPER À L'EXAMEN DU CONCEPT DE STOCKAGE DES DÉCHETS DE COMBUSTIBLE NUCLÉAIRE

**OTTAWA - Le 8 octobre 1996** - Le gouvernement fédéral a accordé de l'aide financière pour aider des particuliers et des groupes à participer à l'examen environnemental du concept de stockage des déchets de combustible nucléaire. Cette aide permettra d'étudier les renseignements techniques additionnels d'Énergie atomique du Canada limitée.

Il s'agit de : Saskatchewan Environmental Society, Northwatch, Première Nation de Serpent River, M. Tom W. Lawson, Concerned Citizens of Manitoba, Nuclear Awareness Project, l'Institut de chimie du Canada, Energy Probe, Société Nucléaire Canadienne, Regroupement pour la surveillance du nucléaire, Inter-Church Uranium Committee, York Centre for Applied Sustainability, Voice of Women for Peace, Campagne contre l'expansion du nucléaire, Northumberland Environmental Protection, Science et paix, Canadian Coalition for Ecology, Ethics, and Religion.

L'aide financière de 92 515 \$ sera versée aux récipiendaires dans le cadre du Programme d'aide financière aux participants de l'Agence canadienne d'évaluation environnementale. Cette aide leur permettra de se préparer et de participer aux audiences qui auront lieu à Toronto en novembre 1996.

Un comité d'administration de l'aide, indépendant de la commission, a été créé pour étudier les demandes d'aide financière. Il se compose de Phil Byer, de l'Université de Toronto, de René Parenteau, de l'Université de Montréal et de Mike Lascelles, de l'Agence.

-30-

**Pour obtenir plus de renseignements sur le Programme d'aide financière aux participants, une liste des bénéficiaires, la nature de leurs travaux et le montant accordé, veuillez communiquer avec :**

Suzanne Latour  
Gestionnaire intérimaire  
Programme d'aide financière aux participants  
Agence canadienne d'évaluation environnementale  
200, boulevard Sacré-Coeur, 13<sup>e</sup> étage  
Hull (Québec) K1A 0H3

Téléphone : (819) 997-1000 (frais virés)  
Télécopieur : (819) 994-1469  
courrier électronique: [slatour@gsro.carleton.ca](mailto:slatour@gsro.carleton.ca)

(Also available in English)



Government of Canada  
Gouvernement du Canada

Canada



# News Release

## GOVERNMENT RELEASES REPORT OF PANEL STUDYING THE DISPOSAL OF NUCLEAR FUEL WASTE

**Ottawa – March 13, 1998** – The federal panel studying the long-term management of nuclear fuel waste and the safety and acceptability of Atomic Energy of Canada's concept to bury nuclear waste deep within the rock of the Canadian Shield has recommended a step-by-step approach to managing nuclear wastes. Accordingly, the eight-member panel is recommending that the search for a specific site not proceed at the present time. The panel's report was made public today by Minister of Natural Resources, Ralph Goodale and Minister of the Environment, Christine Stewart.

"The panel has undertaken an exhaustive review and consultation on a very complex issue. Its report will permit the government to come to an informed and balanced response," said Environment Minister Christine Stewart.

The panel, over its eight-year mandate, carefully examined the criteria by which the safety and acceptability of any concept for long-term waste management and disposal should be developed. It reached two conclusions:

- Broad public support is necessary in Canada to ensure the acceptability of a concept for managing nuclear fuel wastes; and
- Safety is a key part, but only one part, of acceptability. Safety must be viewed from two complementary perspectives: social and technical.

Applying these criteria to Atomic Energy of Canada's disposal concept, the panel arrived at the following conclusions:

- While the safety of the AECL concept has been adequately demonstrated from a technical perspective, from a social perspective it has not.
- The AECL concept in its current form for deep geologic disposal does not have broad public support, and does not have the required level of acceptability to be adopted as Canada's approach for managing nuclear fuel wastes.

.../2





The panel has also recommended the creation of a nuclear fuel waste management agency to assume responsibility for managing and co-ordinating the full range of activities required to deal with nuclear fuel wastes in the long term.

“This panel report raises key issues which the government will give consideration to in its response. This will set the stage for the next steps regarding the long-term disposal of nuclear fuel waste in Canada,” said Minister of Natural Resources Ralph Goodale.

The panel was appointed in October 1989 under the *Environmental Assessment and Review Process Guidelines Order* and is the last panel to report under that Cabinet directive. The panel, chaired by Mr. Blair Seaborn conducted its review in five provinces: Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec and New Brunswick. Public hearings were held in 16 communities, including three Aboriginal communities, over three phases from March 1996 to March 1997. Phase I focussed on broad societal issues; Phase II on technical issues; and Phase III on the safety and acceptability of the disposal concept. Overall, the panel heard 531 registered speakers and received 536 written submissions.

**For more information:**

Guy Riverin  
Panel Manager  
Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency  
Tel: (819) 997-2244

E-mail: [guy.riverin@ceaa.gc.ca](mailto:guy.riverin@ceaa.gc.ca)

The complete report is posted on the CEAA Internet site, at <http://www.ceaa.gc.ca>.

(Aussi disponible en français)





---

# *Background*

---

In a 1978 joint statement, the governments of Canada and Ontario directed Atomic Energy of Canada Limited (AECL) to develop the concept of deep geological disposal of nuclear fuel wastes. A subsequent joint statement in 1981 established that disposal site selection would not begin until after a full federal public hearing and approval of the concept by both governments.

In September 1988, the federal Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources referred the concept, along with a broad range of nuclear fuel waste management issues, for public review. He made this referral under the federal *Environmental Assessment and Review Process Guide-lines Order*. On October 4, 1989, the federal Minister of the Environment appointed an independent environmental assessment panel to conduct the review.

The panel's mandate was unusual compared to that of any other federal environmental assessment panel in that it was asked:

- to review a concept rather than a specific project at a specific site;
- to review a proposal for which the implementing agency was not identified;
- to establish a scientific review group of distinguished independent experts to examine the safety and scientific acceptability of the proposal;
- to review a broad range of policy issues; and
- to conduct the review in five provinces.

AECL describes its concept as a method for geological disposal of nuclear fuel wastes in which

- the waste form is either used Canada Deuterium Uranium (CANDU) fuel or the solidified high-level wastes from reprocessing;
- the waste form is sealed in a container designed to last at least 500 years and possibly much longer;

.../2





- the containers of waste are emplaced in rooms in a disposal vault or in boreholes drilled from the rooms;
- the disposal rooms are between 500 and 1000 metres below the surface;
- the geological medium is plutonic rock of the Canadian Shield;
- each container of waste is surrounded by a buffer;
- each room is sealed with backfill and other vault seals; and
- all tunnels, shafts and exploration boreholes are ultimately sealed in such a way that a disposal facility would be passively safe—that is, long-term safety would not depend on institutional controls.

Such a facility would cost an estimated \$8.7 billion to \$13.3 billion in 1991 dollars, depending on the amount of waste to be disposed of.

The Panel conducted its review in Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec and New Brunswick. To develop guidelines to help AECL prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS), the Panel held scoping meetings in autumn 1990 in 14 communities. It also held a workshop on Aboriginal issues and met with members of Canadian Student Pugwash. The Panel then prepared draft guidelines, released them for public comment in June 1991, and issued them in final form on March 18, 1992. On October 26, 1994, AECL submitted an EIS, supported by nine primary reference documents. The period for public review of the EIS began on November 8, 1994, and ended on August 8, 1995.

Public hearings were held in 16 communities over three phases beginning March 11, 1996 and ending March 27, 1997. Phase I focused on broad societal issues related to managing nuclear fuel wastes; Phase II focused on the safety of the AECL concept from a technical viewpoint; and Phase III focused on the public's opinions of the safety and acceptability of the concept. During all three phases, the Panel heard from a total of 531 registered speakers and received 536 written submissions, as listed in Appendix F. Participants were also allowed to submit brief closing statements in writing by April 18, 1997. The Panel considered all written and oral information received in the period from its appointment to the end of the hearings, as well as the closing statements, in preparing this report.

Among other activities, the Terms of Reference directed the Panel

- to examine the criteria by which the safety and acceptability of a concept for long-term waste management and disposal should be evaluated; and
- to prepare a final report addressing whether AECL's concept is safe and acceptable or should be modified, and the future steps to be taken in managing nuclear fuel wastes in Canada.



## CRITERIA FOR SAFETY AND ACCEPTABILITY

The Panel examined the criteria by which the safety and acceptability of any concept for long-term waste management should be evaluated (Chapter 4 of the report). In doing so, it came to the following key conclusions.

### Key Panel Conclusions

- **Broad public support is necessary in Canada to ensure the acceptability of a concept for managing nuclear fuel wastes.**
- **Safety is a key part, but only one part, of acceptability. Safety must be viewed from two complementary perspectives: technical and social.**

On this basis, the Panel defined the safety and acceptability criteria as follows:

To be considered acceptable, a concept for managing nuclear fuel wastes must

- a) have broad public support;
- b) be safe from both a technical and a social perspective;
- c) have been developed within a sound ethical and social assessment framework;
- d) have the support of Aboriginal people;
- e) be selected after comparison with the risks, costs and benefits of other options; and
- f) be advanced by a stable and trustworthy proponent and overseen by a trustworthy regulator.

To be considered safe, a concept for managing nuclear fuel wastes must be judged, on balance, to

- a) demonstrate robustness in meeting appropriate regulatory requirements;
- b) be based on thorough and participatory scenario analyses;
- c) use realistic data, modelling and natural analogues;
- d) incorporate sound science and good practices;
- e) demonstrate flexibility;
- f) demonstrate that implementation is feasible; and
- g) integrate peer review and international expertise.

## SAFETY AND ACCEPTABILITY OF THE AECL CONCEPT

After applying these criteria to the AECL disposal concept, the Panel arrived at the key conclusions listed below. The rationale for them, and an elaboration on the technical and social perspectives of safety, are documented in Chapter 5 of the report.

### Key Panel Conclusions

- **From a technical perspective, safety of the AECL concept has been on balance adequately demonstrated for a conceptual stage of development, but from a social perspective, it has not.**



- **As it stands, the AECL concept for deep geological disposal has not been demonstrated to have broad public support. The concept in its current form does not have the required level of acceptability to be adopted as Canada's approach for managing nuclear fuel wastes.**

## **FUTURE STEPS**

The Panel considered the steps that must be taken to ensure the safe and acceptable long-term management of nuclear fuel wastes in Canada (in Chapter 6 of the report). It arrived at the following key recommendations.

### **Key Panel Recommendations**

**A number of additional steps are required to develop an approach for managing nuclear fuel wastes in a way that could achieve broad public support. These include**

- **issuing a policy statement on managing nuclear fuel wastes;**
- **initiating an Aboriginal participation process;**
- **creating a nuclear fuel waste management agency (NFWMA);**
- **conducting a public review of AECL regulatory documents using a more effective consultation process;**
- **developing a comprehensive public participation plan;**
- **developing an ethical and social assessment framework; and**
- **developing and comparing options for managing nuclear fuel wastes.**

**Taking into account the views of participants in our public hearings and our own analysis, we have developed the following basic recommendations to governments with respect to a management agency:**

- **that an NFWMA as described in Chapter 6 of the report be established quickly, at arm's length from the utilities and AECL, with the sole purpose of managing and co-ordinating the full range of activities relating to the long-term management of nuclear fuel wastes;**
- **that it be fully funded in all its operations from a segregated fund to which only the producers and owners of nuclear fuel wastes would contribute;**
- **that its board of directors, appointed by the federal government, be representative of key stakeholders;**



- that it have a strong and active advisory council representative of a wide variety of interested parties;
- that its purposes, responsibilities and accountability, particularly in relation to the ownership of the wastes, be clearly and explicitly spelled out, preferably in legislation or in its charter of incorporation; and
- that it be subject to multiple oversight mechanisms, including federal regulatory control with respect to its scientific-technical work and the adequacy of its financial guarantees; to policy direction from the federal government; and to regular public review, preferably by Parliament.

Until the foregoing steps have been completed and broad public acceptance of a nuclear fuel waste management approach has been achieved, the search for a specific site should not proceed.

If the AECL concept is chosen as the most acceptable option after implementation of the steps recommended above, governments should direct the NFWMA, together with Natural Resources Canada and the AECB or its successor, to undertake the following: review all the social and technical shortcomings identified by the Scientific Review Group and other review participants; establish their priority; and generate a plan to address them. The NFWMA should make this plan publicly available, invite public input, then implement the plan.

March 1998



# Plan for Building and Determining Acceptability









